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COUNTRY Afghanistan

DATE DISTR. 20 March 1952

SUBJECT Conditions in Northern Afghanistan

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. Pul-i-Khumri. (68°44'E - 35°56'N) The Hakim (or Mayor) of this village stated that he has been transplanting people from the Jallalabad area and southeastern Afghanistan to homestead on lands near Pul-i-Khumri. Each family is given the equivalent of approximately one acre of land. According to the Hakim, the transfer of militant Afghani into this area has been encouraged by the town and village officials, who are mostly of the Afghani ethnic group, because they consider the Uzbeqs, Tadjiks, etc. as bad security risks in case of invasion from without. The towns of Hazrat Imam (68°53'E - 37°14'N) and Imam Sahib (68°54'E - 37°11'N) have experienced the largest population transfers.
2. Baghlan. (68°46'E - 36°13'N) The local people, who are mostly Uzbeqs, do not listen to Radio Kabul, which does not broadcast in the Uzbek language. Instead, the owners of radios listen to Radio Tashkent for news and entertainment.
3. Faizabad. (70°34'E - 37°06'N) A tour of the bazaars revealed a considerable quantity of Indian cotton goods and a moderate amount of Japanese china. Most of the merchandise was of local origin. Matches were the only Soviet items available in quantity.

The Hakim of Faizabad, on the grounds that it is "too cold and too dangerous", refused permission to visit Shiwa Lake (71°15'E - 37°23'N). There are few villages in this northern tip of Badakhshan and the only people who traverse this area are nomadic tribes, known as Koochees.

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Only a limited amount of electric power is available in Faizabad. It permits the one radio in town to pipe its programs to 3 loudspeakers erected in the bazaar area. According to the Hakim, the only station listened to is Radio Kabul.

A large number of soldiers are stationed in Faizabad and were seen drilling near the bazaar.

A telephone line runs from Faizabad to the Sinkiang frontier.

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4. Kunduz. (68°50'E - 36°45'N) From Kunduz there are two roads leading north to Imam Sahib, but only one of them is in use. Ten kilometers north of Kunduz lies the Khanabad River. This river can be forded in certain places during the dry season, but a ferry is kept in operation at all times. Foreigners are discouraged by the Afghan Government from traveling beyond the Khanabad River to the northern frontier.<sup>2</sup>

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5.

25X1A1. Comment. Probably refers to the town of Khwaja Imam Saiyad.

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